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Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : It is not at all my intention that the district boards should be compelled to do this. But I appeal to the Government to impress on them the need to electrify travellers' bungalows in view of their importance from the tourists' point of view and in the interests of their proper maintenance itself.

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI : Yes, Sir; such advice will be given to the local bodies.

Dr. V. K. JOHN : Will the Government take over these travellers' bungalows from the district boards, maintain them and supply electricity in view of the fact that these travellers' bungalows are used by tourists and others?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI : That is not possible. Government cannot take over everything and maintain it.

Car accidents and casualties in the State during 1954–55 and 1955–56

* 117 *Q.*—Sri M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state— 3-10 p.m.

(*a*) the number of car accidents that occurred in this State during the years 1954–55 and 1955–56; and

(*b*) the number of casualties for each of these two years?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : The information in respesct of areas in this State as it was on 31st October 1956 is as follows :—

(*a*) During the period 1954–55	1,710
During the period 1955–56	1,907
(*b*) During the period 1954–55	719
During the period 1955–56	784

Sri M. ETHIRAJULU : இந்த விபத்துக்களில் பாதிக்கப்பட்டவர்களுடைய குடும்பங்களுக்கு ஏதாவது நஷ்ட ஈடு கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்று கேட்க விரும்புகிறேன் ?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : விபத்து ஏற்பட்டதற்கு டிரைவர் காரணமா அல்லது வண்டியின் குறுக்கே போனவர்கள காரணமா என்று கோர்ட்டார் தீர்மானித்த பிறகு, அதற்குத் தகுந்தாற்போல் நஷ்ட ஈடு கொடுக்கப்படும். யார் விபத்துக்குப் பொறுப்பானவர்களோ அவர்கள் மேல் பிராது செய்து அவர்கள் நஷ்ட ஈடு கொடுக்கும்படி செய்வதற்கு அரசாங்கத்தார் ஏற்பாடு செய்திருக்கிறார்கள்.

Sri G. KRISHNAMOORTHI : Do these accidents include accidents caused by buses and lorries also?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : Yes, accidents caused by all motor vehicles.

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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister assure us that steps would be taken to minimise the nuisance of glaring headlights in the lorries and cars and may I know what action has been taken to improve matters in this respect?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Orders have since been issued to paint the glasses of motor vehicles as well as lorries with yellow paint. That is the only thing possible. That would dim the dazzling light to some extent. Otherwise, we will have to amend the Act and for amending the Act we are taking necessary steps. For the time being, this experiment would be very useful and only after trying it for a few months, we have to think of an alternative method. Government have been taking as many steps as possible for restricting vehicular traffic in congested roads and also for regulating the traffic in certain areas. One-way traffic regulation has been imposed in some places. In certain places we have placed certain kind of rails made of cement which would make the pedestrians walk on the pavements. Accidents are due partly to the negligence and rash driving of the drivers and the negligence of the pedestrians also.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI : What is the exact reason that the Government have found for the increase in the number of accidents and in the number of casualties?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : On account of the implementation of the Five-Year Plan, the number of vehicles has increased. People seem to move about and, therefore, it is but natural that there is some slight increase in the number of accidents, when compared with last year.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : May I know when the new rule with regard to mellowed headlights will be introduced and whether instructions have been communicated to all lorry-owners?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Orders were passed some two weeks ago. I think by this time the traffic officers in the districts would have communicated them to the lorry-owners and others concerned. Apart from this, I would, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, even though the answer may be long, read out, for the information of hon. Members and the public, the important measures taken by Government to avoid accidents. Among the important measures taken by Government are the following :—

(i) Speed restrictions have been imposed by Government themselves in respect of various classes of vehicles with reference to the nature of the areas where they are driven and violation of this provision entails disciplinary and penal action against the offenders.

(ii) Circular instructions have been issued by the Central Road Traffic Board to the Licencing Officers to insist upon one year's experience in driving for those who want licence to drive light transport vehicles and three years' experience for those who want licence to drive heavy transport vehicles.

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(iii) Motor Vehicle Inspectors have been instructed by the Central Road Traffic Board to check transport vehicles thoroughly before issuing certificates of fitness.

(iv) In the City of Madras, continued Police vigilance coupled with intensified propaganda by the Traffic Branch and prompt disciplinary action apart from prosecutions have helped to reduce the number of accidents. Speed traps are laid regularly to prevent rash and negligent driving. Propaganda in educating the public and motorists in road sense is being continued daily as hitherto. Motor Vehicle Inspectors are made to do surprise check of contract carriages and lorries on the road and take defective vehicles off the road by suspending their registration. All suitable precautionary measures are taken to avoid congestion of traffic in certain parts of the City by introducing one-way traffic, limiting the speed of vehicles and prohibiting slow-moving vehicles during peak hours. However, accidents due to motor vehicles are mainly the result of rash and negligent driving and there is also some contributory negligence from pedestrians.

Sri V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY : Have the Government made any comparative study of the accidents in other parts of the country so that we may know whether we in this State are not lagging behind in carefulness in regard to these things, whether we are lagging behind other States or whether we are as good as other States?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : We are much better than other States. (Sri V. Chakkarai Chetty : I am glad to hear that; Congratulations.) If hon. Members were to go to some other States—I do not want to name them—they would not only thank this Government but congratulate themselves.

Sri G. KRISHNAMOORTHI : Do not the Government think that the construction of pavements would considerably reduce the number of these accidents especially in municipal towns where these lorries, buses and cars are allowed to ply? I do not know why the Government have not paid heed to the suggestion that I made previously, viz., that pavements should be constructed in municipal towns wherein these lorries move about. If the question of finance comes in the way of local bodies constructing the pavements or if the Government are not able to help the local bodies in this matter, may I make a suggestion that it would be the sacred duty of Government to construct these pavements by collecting the necessary money from those people who have got so much money to buy motor cars and lorries that kill these people?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : Nobody would be thinking of killing anybody, much less the pedestrians. There are accidents when somebody crosses the road suddenly. With regard to the suggestion made by the hon. Member for construction of pavements, it is not possible for municipalities to construct pavements. This is so because apart from the fact that funds do not permit, the question of acquisition comes in. There is too much of

opposition from private parties to give even an inch of land. That is why all possible measures, which I have described already, are being taken to prevent accidents and stringent measures will be taken if the hon. Member points out any peculiar difficulty in any particular area.

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY : Do the Government allow the public to take the law into their own hands and kill the miscreants, crucify them or hang them in the nearest tree?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : I do not think the hon. Member is making a serious suggestion.

DR. V. K. JOHN : May I take it that the Government have done their best and are doing their best, but that still the accidents are on the increase?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Accidents are accidents and nobody can help them.

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW : Does it mean that accidents due to negligence and casualties due to negligence are not included in this list?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : All accidents including casualties.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : The trouble is, in the nights these lorry drivers drive the lorries from one place to another, sleeping. Is there any restriction on that? These poor people work all through the day and suddenly in the night they are asked to take the lorry to some other place. In the night when they drive, after a day's hard work, they get sleep and that is the reason for these accidents.

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : And, therefore, the Government need not be blamed. (Laughter.)

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Government consider the advisability of preventing entrance of lorries within the Corporation limits by the construction of sheds outside the Corporation limits? I am sure that method is being adopted by certain municipalities and the same may be adopted here in Madras also which will go a long way in preventing accidents.

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Some lorries turtle down during their speedy drive in broad roads and highways. Very rarely we find lorries involved in accidents in the City of Madras. The drivers restrict the speed and drive with an amount of caution. I do not think that in the public interest we can prevent any vehicle coming into the City unless it is found to be smuggling certain things and except for various other compelling reasons.

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SRI JOHN ASIRVATHAM : May I know how many Government Transport buses were involved in these accidents?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : I do not have the exact figure. But it will be almost negligible.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Government be pleased to constitute an expert committee to go into the causes of these accidents and see what remedial measures could be adopted?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Sir, it is after careful consideration and discussion with all the authorities concerned that the Government were compelled to take all the measures which I just now narrated here. I do not think any further measures could be taken. However, if the hon. Member has any suggestion to make, useful suggestion, Government will certainly welcome it and consider it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—FELICITATIONS TO SRIMATHI MARY C. CLUBWALA JADHAV, M.L.C., ON HER APPOINTMENT AS SHERIFF OF MADRAS.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my pleasant privilege, with your permission, to felicitate one hon. Member of this House, the very active lady Member, Srimathi Mary C. Clubwala Jadhav, on her appointment as the Sheriff of Madras for this year. (Cheers.) Sir, this House has had on a previous occasion to felicitate her. I do hope that hon. Members of this House would have an opportunity to see her in her Sheriff's costumes with sword in hand. p.m.

* DR. V. K. JOHN : Sir, may I associate myself with the expression of felicitations offered to Srimathi Mary Clubwala Jadhav on her appointment as Sheriff? This House is proud of her.

* SRI V. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join in the congratulations which the Hon. the Leader of the House has been good enough to offer to Srimathi Mary Clubwala Jadhav on her appointment as the Sheriff of Madras. It is a rare honour and, she being the first woman to be appointed to this high office in this State, we are all very glad that the Government have been pleased to show this consideration to her. On behalf of the voluntary social workers of this State, I have very great pleasure in offering my congratulations as well as the congratulations of all social workers to her on the high honour that has been conferred on her. I hope that this is only a preliminary to other honours still to come to her.

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY : May I add one word, Sir? It gives me great pleasure to associate myself with the views expressed by the Hon. the Leader of the House and to congratulate